

Appl. No. 10/691,744
Amdt. dated April 1, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 5, 2005

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 3, with the following paragraph:

Each of the local arbiters 320 selects a message packet among the message packets waiting in the associated buffer 310 of the input port 330, 340. The local arbiters thus nominate a pending request from the buffer 310 for processing. The global arbiters 350 select a message packet from message packets nominated by the local arbiters 320 for transmission on an associated output port 360, 370. A more complete description of the arbitration process can be found in commonly owned, co-pending application, Serial No. 09/653,642, entitled "Priority Rules for Reducing Network Message Routing Latency," filed on August 31, 2000.